Dashain and Tihar

Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि, अब, हिन्दुहरुको ठुलो अब चाडपर्व दुइटा त दशैं र तिहार हो होइन? त्यो त अलि लामो समयलाई नि हुन्छ। दशैं र तिहारको कार्यक्रम भन्दिनुस्न कसरी मानाइन्छ?

बिद्‌यार्थी: नेपालको सबैभन्दा ठुलो चाडपर्व नै दशैं-तिहार मान्न सकिन्छ। नेपालीहरुले सबैभन्दा धेरै मान्ने, अथवा सबैभन्दा ठुलो, देशकोलागी भनेको, चाडपर्व नै दशैं र तिहारको रहेकोछ अहिले। र दशैं भनेको चाहिँ हाम्रो जम्मा-जम्मी १५ दिनको हुने गर्द छ तर विशेष बडा दशैं भनेर चाहिँ १० दिनकोलागि मान्ने गरिन्छ। यो चाहिँ विशेष गरि घटस्थापना भन्ने दिनदेखि सुरु गरिन्छ। जहाँ चाहिँ एउटा के विश्वास रहेकोछ भने त्यो दिनमा चाहिँ प्रतेक मान्छेहरुमा चाहिँ एउटा नया, भनौँ न, एउटा मोक्ष जाने अथवा मोक्ष पाउने बाटो तिर जाओस भनेर घर-घरमा अथवा प्रतेक मान्छेहरुको चाहिँ भित्रि आत्मामा चाहिँ त्यस्तो विचार अथवा त्यस्तो भावना चाहिँ रहोस भन्ने उसको साथमा चाहिँ, एउटा त्यस्तो बिश्वासको साथमा चाहिँ, घटस्थापनाको दिनमा चाहिँ सुरु गरिन्छ यस पूजालाई। र यो चाहिँ १० दिन सम्मको हुन्छ होइन? र दशौँ दिनमा चाहिँ ठुलो बढाहरुको बाट चाहिँ, तरफबाट चाहिँ आशिर्वाद स्वरूप अथवा प्रेम स्वरूप चाहिँ सानो व्यक्तिहरुलाई चाहिँ टिकाहरु लगाइने गरिन्छ। र यसमा चाहिँ अर्को एउटा कथन अथवा भनाइ पनि रहेको छ कि यो दिनमा चाहिँ भगवान श्री रामले चाहिँ रावण जी माथि चाहिँ विजय प्राप्त गर्नुभएको थियो र यसलाई हामीले हेर्दाखेरि चाहिँ एउटा नराम्रो माथि चाहिँ राम्रोको विजय भएको कारण, भएको एउटा महोत्सव जस्तो पनि मानौँदछ। र दश दिन सम्मको, पाँच दिन सम्मको पुर्णिमा सम्ममा चाहिँ त्यहि टिका धारणहरु गर्ने, भिभिन्न आफ्नो, के भन्छ, आफ्नो ठुला-बढाहरुकोमा गएर सनोहरुले आशिर्वाद लिने कार्यहरु हुने गर्दछ। र तिहार भनेको चाहिँ हाम्रो विशेष गरि चाहिँ, एउटा दीपावली यसलाईपनि भनिन्छ र यसमा चाहिँ विशेस गरि दियोहरु जलाएर बत्तीहरु जलाएर यसलाई मनाइने गरिन्छ। र हाम्रो विशेष गरि हाम्रो तिहार पर्वमा चाहिँ देउँसी र भैलो खेल्ने परम्परा रहेकोछ, होइन? जहाँ चाहिँ, विभिन्न ठाउँ-ठाउँमा गएर घर-घरमा गएर देउँसी-भैलोहरुको गानहरू गाउँछ र यसबाट चाहिँ, भनौँ न, गएर एउटा रमाइलो पनि हुने गर्दछ, एउटा आफ्नो देशको चाडपर्व हरुलाई

पनि मनाइरहेको जस्तो हुने गर्दछ। र साथसाथै धार्मिक तरिकाबाट हेर्ने हो भने चाहिँ, तिहारमा चाहिँ माता लक्ष्मीको चाहिँ विशेष पुजाहरु अर्चनाहरु गर्नेगरेको पाइन्छ।

English translation:

Interviewer: And, now, the biggest festivals that Hindus celebrate are Dashain and Tihar, *hoina*[1]? How are these festivals celebrated?

Student: The largest festivals in Nepal can be said to be Dashain and Tihar. The festivals that all Nepalis celebrate, or are the biggest celebrations, are Dashain and Tihar. Now, Dashain is approximately a fifteen-day celebration, but the main festivities, which we call Bada Dashain, is celebrated for ten days. This festival starts from the day of Ghatasthapana. It is believed that through the celebrations done on this day, every person will be able to or it will at least make it easier for them to attain *moksh* and it is with this belief that the *puja*[2] starts. And this lasts for ten days, *hoina*? And on the tenth day, younger members of the family go to their elders and the elders put *tika*[3] on them and provide their blessings and love. There is also a story about this day, meaning, it is said that it was on this day that Lord Ram became victorious over the demon Ravan. Thus, it is said that on this day we celebrate the victory of good over evil. And till these ten days, or five days till the full moon, we keep going to our relatives and get their blessings and continue on like this. And Tihar, is mainly about…well, it is also called Deepawali and on this day we mainly light a lot of *diyos*[4] and lights. And one of the main traditions during Tihar is singing *deunsi*[5] and *bhailo*[6], *hoina*? They go around from house to house singing *deunsi-bhailo* songs, and from this, let's say, they get to have fun and also celebrate and become part of a festival that is celebrated throughout Nepal. And along with this, if you look at it religiously, during Tihar, we mainly do *pujas* for the Goddess Laxmi.

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[1] The direct translation of *hoina* is 'no.' In this context, it is to make sure that the person is following the story and to confirm something. For example, in English, the word 'Right?' is used to confirm something.

[2] A ritual done while praying.

[3] A mixture of rice, yoghurt, vermillion powder and sometimes marigold flowers that are placed on the forehead by either the elder members of the house or a priest, and is an auspicious means of blessing that bestows good fortune, health and long life.

[4] A *diyo* is a small earthen oil lamp, usually made from clay, which contains a cotton wick in a pool of oil to light it.

[5] *Deunsi* is a tradition where children, especially boys, go around their neighborhood from home to home asking for sweets and treats by singing the '*deunsi'* song. It is almost like the Halloween tradition.

[6] *Bhailo* is the female version of *deunsi*. Mostly girls sing this song. It is the same tradition as *deunsi*, but the difference is that the song is a little bit sweeter and mellower than the *deunsi* song.

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